



CITY OF LAS VEGAS

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MAYOR DECLARES MORATORIUM TO HELP NEEDY RESIDENTS FROM WINTER GAS SHUT-OFFS

LAS VEGAS, NM – Las Vegas Mayor Tony E. Marquez, Jr. directed city staff to present a moratorium to help needy and elderly citizens from winter gas shut-offs. He has directed city staff to develop a similar program to LIHEAP for the City of Las Vegas. The moratorium will be presented to city council for approval during the November 5, 2008 meeting. The upcoming meeting will commence at 6 p.m. in the San Miguel County Commission Chambers, 500 West National located on the second floor of the county courthouse.

“Budget billing and pay plans are not enough to ensure that everyone has a warm home this winter,” Mayor Marquez said. “We cannot harm the elderly or the needy and I vow to protect them.”

Mayor says an eligibility plan will need to be developed, which takes into consideration income, amount of people in household, current cost of heating, and the ability to pay back the city for services in warmer months. The program, called WARM, stands for Winter Assistance Repayment Moratorium.

“I don’t want citizens to choose between medications, food and heating their homes,” Marquez said. “I have heard many heartfelt stories regarding their hardships just to make ends meet. This moratorium is needed to ensure that people will have a warm home, food on their table and the necessary medications to be healthy. All of these are needed to ensure a quality way of life for all Las Vegas residents.”

Marquez also directed staff to promote and encourage citizen participation in state-sponsored LIHEAP program.

For more information, please contact Mercy López, Public Information Officer, at 505-454-1401 ext. 294 or at 505-426-7594.

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